

**Thomas Hart Benton to Andrew Jackson, May 28, 1844,
from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by
John Spencer Bassett.**

class=MsoNormal>THOMAS H. BENTON TO JACKSON.

Washington, May 28, 1844.

Dear Sir, I had the pleasure to receive your full and ample letter in reply to the brief one that I wrote you, 1 and since its receipt my speech on the Texas treaty has been published, and will shew my objections to it with the exception of one, of which not having the proofs sufficiently full, I did not chuse to name at all: and that was the dissolution of the Union and the formation of the Southern confederacy to include California. I did not touch this because I did not chuse to go into it without full proof.

1 See p. 291, ante.

We are in a bad way here, about as we were in 1824–25, when the will of the people was put down in your presence by the intrigues of members of congress. Since the meeting of congress a nest of members of congress have been at work to nullify the will of the people in the person of Mr. Van Buren, and now they [are] at work to nullify the convention, and break it up without a nomination, or with the nomination of some one whom the people have rejected. Offices, 100 millions of Texas lands, ten millions of Texas stock, are making fearful havoc among our public men.

If the nullifiers succeed in preventing a nomination with their two thirds rule, I see no course but for the majority to nominate Mr. V.B. and go before the people with it. I am glad to see from your vigorous writing that you are still blessed with so much strength; of course

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you have infirmities, but the spirits are good, and the strength considerable when you write with so much vigor.

Most truly and sincerely yours,